

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 289

By Yokley

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to provide for a domestic energy policy that will ensure an adequate supply of natural gas while promoting economic and national security for the benefit of future generations of Americans.

WHEREAS, high and volatile prices for natural gas are negatively affecting Tennessee's businesses and manufacturers, causing industrial plant closings and contributing to higher unemployment and underemployment rates; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 million American consumers, and approximately 1.2 million consumers in Tennessee, have chosen to rely on natural gas, which is the most environmentally-friendly fossil fuel, for safe, reliable heat and hot water; and

WHEREAS, wholesale natural gas prices have more than doubled over the last five years, creating an "energy tax" of more than \$66 billion per year on America's natural gas consumers; and

WHEREAS, the natural gas imbalance is exacerbated by artificial restrictions in development and drilling and by governmental policies that increase demand for natural gas while impeding the development of a greater supply by discouraging domestic exploration and production; and

WHEREAS, national energy legislation is long overdue; and

WHEREAS, the most critical cornerstone of such legislation must be to encourage increased exploration and production efforts for domestic natural gas supplies; and

WHEREAS, by utilizing sound environmental stewardship principles, new abundant natural gas frontiers can be developed to meet consumer demand; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the members of this General Assembly, by this resolution, urge the United States Congress to enact legislation in the 109th Congress that will provide for a domestic energy policy that will ensure an adequate supply of natural gas, including developing the appropriate infrastructure, and that will embrace a concerted national effort to promote greater energy efficiency, producing a political consensus that will open promising new areas for environmentally responsible natural gas production by including measures such as are contained in the proposed federal State Enhanced Authority for Coastal and Offshore Resources Act (SEACOR) or similar legislation to enhance states' authority over coastal and offshore resources, that (i) provide an exemption to the moratorium that prevents until 2012 any surveying, exploration, development, or production of potential natural gas deposits in areas off the Atlantic shore that are under federal jurisdiction and (ii) incorporate revenue sharing between the federal and state governments for leasing activity that potentially will provide Tennessee and other states with significant additional sources of revenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be sent to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Tennessee in this matter.